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DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY  
RADIOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY  
630 WEST 168TH STREET

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October 11, 1951

Dr. Shields Warren  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Shields:-

It has been called to my attention by Dr. Muckenfuss, of the New York City Department of Health, and assigned to Civilian Defense, that in the popular book "We of Nagasaki", there are some statements quite contrary to what we believe to be correct.

On page 168 it says "Directly after the explosion the Ukrami area was so radioactive that people who had no more than walked around it would get acute enteritis with diarrhea.....People who worked in the ruins... exposed themselves to powerful radiation and came down with severe attacks of radiation sickness, not a few of them dying. And the very corpses of Nagasaki were highly radioactive; whoever worked long at burying the dead eventually showed pronounced symptoms of the "atomic disease". The phosphorus in the bones of the dead had been rendered radioactive and gave off deadly emissions." On page 170 "The following year the harvests were surprisingly abundant, but all kinds of monstrosities appeared".

In Effects of Atomic Weapons, page 269 it states that "At Nagasaki.... even a few minutes after the explosion the area did not present a radiation hazard." This, of course, is what we are teaching in Civilian Defense, but people who are reading Nagai's book are saying that we are not telling the true facts. I believe we ought to have some sort of official refutation of these erroneous and frightening statements. I don't know just how to do it, without saying that Nagai is not telling the truth. Perhaps it could be pointed out that probably the people who thought they got sick from walking through the area afterward, or from handling corpses, had in fact got some of the primary irradiation.

Has anyone else asked you about this? I am going to have to discuss it here in the New York City group. I will appreciate and factual or moral support you can give me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

*Edith H. Quimby*  
Edith H. Quimby

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